Closure of Four CPSUs in West Bengal

837. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDPY -Win me&femear ofHEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to stale:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-item captioned Kendra ne jhoot bola... appeared in Jansatta (Calcutta edition), dated 14th July, 2000 regarding closure of four CPSUs in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the expert Committee had recommended fo explore the possibilities of revival ofWeighbird, MAMC and RIC through various options, are reported;

(c) if so, the details of the efforts made by Government to explore the possibilities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHXRIA): (a) to (d) Govt, has taken a decision to take action for closure yf six unviable PSEs including MAMC, RIC and Weighbird after considering the recommendations of the Export Group about the unviability of the companies as PSUs and taken into account that the earlier efforts for revival through, other options including privatisation/joint venture formation have not been successful. These PSEs were facing the possibility of winding up consequent to the preliminary/final view of BIFR/Expert Agency. However, in order to mitigate die hardship of employees in these PSEs, Govt, have decided to introduce Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) and offer VRS benefits which would be substantially higher than the compensation available under the ID Act in the event of winding up.

Popularity of DD regional Channels

838. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan Regional Channels have succeeded in curtailing the popularity of private channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) it not, the steps Government intend to take to bring back the viewers to the Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF STATB IN THE MINISTRY (^INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARTJN JAITLEY): (a) Doordarshan does not aim to curtail the popularity of private channels but to improve viewenbip of its channels:

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Doordarshan continuounsly endeavours to improve its programmes and quality of coverage. Some rescent initiatives taken in mis regard including modification of fixed point chart (FPQ to include a wise variety of programmes, improvement in quality and content of regional programmes, improvement in quality of transmission through digitalization in the satellite segments of the channels and increase in during transmission time of regional satellite channels.

Crimes and Suicides being encouraged by Electronic Media

† 839. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
SHRIKAPILSBAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the incidents in which children have committed crimes and suicides being encouraged by media especially electronic media;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued new directives for the programmes being telecast; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THEMINISTTiR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JATTLEY): (a) Representations have been received occasionally alleging certain TV
programmes as cause of commission of crimes by children. However, so far, no definite correlation has been established between the two in such cases.

(b) and (c) Government has not issued any new directive to the media as they are expected to function within the prescribed statutory or self regulatory codes and practices, wherever applicable.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.